

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A device that attaches a first component to a second component, comprising:

a sleeve positioned in the first component and being axially fixed in the first component; and

a bolt positioned in the sleeve, and having a threaded front end that projects outwardly from the sleeve for screwing into a mating thread of the second component, and which is ~~screwed into~~ disposed in the sleeve with a slight radial play and held supported against axial forces,

wherein the bolt has a recess in its axial section accommodated in the sleeve and a spring lock washer located in the recess, whereby as the bolt is axially introduced into the sleeve, the spring lock washer is pressed radially by the sleeve into the recess and engages radially behind an inner shoulder of the sleeve for axial support,

wherein a rear end of the sleeve includes a lead-in cone and, at the rear end of the sleeve in the direction of introduction of the bolt, the sleeve includes a collar that projects radially outward, wherein an end section at a front end of the sleeve has a reduced wall thickness that is flanged outward, and wherein the recess of the bolt includes a rear deep section and a front flat section for the spring lock washer that co-acts with said lead-in cone during introduction of the bolt into the sleeve and co-acts with the inner shoulder of the sleeve during detachment, and

wherein the sleeve includes a first interior section in the direction of introduction of the bolt and an adjoining second interior section, an inner diameter of the first interior section substantially coinciding with an outer diameter of the bolt, and an inner diameter of the second interior section being expanded relative to the inner diameter of the first interior section, wherein said inner shoulder of the sleeve is formed by a transition from the first interior section to the second interior section, wherein the bolt includes a first shank section and a second shank section that are separated by said recess, and wherein an axial length of said first shank section of the bolt corresponds to an axial length of the first interior section of the sleeve.

2. (Previously presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the recess includes a radial depth of the rear deep section corresponding to a radial material thickness of the spring lock washer, and a radial depth of the flat section corresponding to approximately half of the radial material thickness of the spring lock washer.
3. (Original) The device according to Claim 2, wherein the recess includes a stop shoulder formed on a rear end in the direction of introduction of the bolt and a support shoulder formed on a front end, the stop shoulder and the support shoulder each being located in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the bolt.

Claims 4 - 6 (Cancelled).

7. (Previously presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the sleeve is a deep drawn part.
8. (Previously presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the sleeve, the bolt, and the spring lock washer are made of steel.
9. (Previously presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the spring lock washer includes an axial slot, an outer diameter of the spring lock washer in an unstressed state being equal to the inner diameter of the second section of the sleeve, and the material thickness of the spring lock washer and the width of the slot are dimensioned in such a way that the spring lock washer can be compressed to an outer diameter which is smaller than the inner diameter of the first section of the sleeve.
10. (Previously presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the recess includes a stop shoulder formed on the rear end in the direction of introduction of the bolt and a support shoulder formed on the front end, the stop shoulder and the support shoulder each being located in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the bolt.

Claims 11 - 12 (Cancelled).

13. (Original) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the bolt has a rear first shank section in the direction of introduction that includes an outer diameter coinciding with the inner diameter of a first section of the sleeve, and a front second shank section that is separated from the first shank section by the recess having an outer diameter that is reduced relative to the outer diameter of the first shank section.
14. (Original) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the sleeve is a deep drawn part.
15. (Original) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the sleeve, the bolt, and the spring lock washer are made of steel.
16. (Original) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the spring lock washer includes an axial slot, an outer diameter of the spring lock washer in an unstressed state being equal to an inner diameter of a second section of the sleeve, and a material thickness of the spring lock washer and a width of the slot being dimensioned to compress the spring lock washer to an outer diameter which is smaller than an inner diameter of a first section of the sleeve.

17. (Previously presented) An attachment device, comprising:

a substantially cylindrical sleeve having a hollow interior portion with a first interior section, an adjacent second interior section, and an inner shoulder;

an elongated bolt that fits in the sleeve;

a recess formed on a portion of the bolt; and

an elastic member disposed in the recess, wherein the elastic member radially compresses inwardly in response to the bolt being disposed in the first interior section and wherein the elastic member radially decompresses outwardly to enable the elastic member to engage the inner shoulder in response to the bolt being disposed in the second interior section,

wherein a rear end of the sleeve includes a lead-in cone and, at the rear end of the sleeve in the direction of introduction of the bolt, the sleeve includes a collar that projects radially outward, wherein an end section at a front end of the sleeve has a reduced wall thickness that is flanged outward, and wherein the recess of the bolt includes a rear deep section and a front flat section for the elastic member that co-acts with said lead-in cone during introduction of the bolt into the sleeve and co-acts with the inner shoulder of the sleeve during detachment, and

wherein an inner diameter of the first interior section substantially coincides with an outer diameter of the bolt, and an inner diameter of the second interior section is expanded relative to the inner diameter of the first interior section, wherein said inner shoulder of the sleeve is formed by a transition from the first interior section to the second interior section, wherein the bolt includes a first shank section and a second shank section that are separated by said recess, and wherein an axial length of

said first shank section of the bolt corresponds to an axial length of the first interior section of the sleeve.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) The attachment device of claim 17, where the conformingly contacts a first component.

20. (Previously presented) The attachment device of claim 17, wherein a portion of the sleeve securely engages a portion of a first component.

21. (Original) The attachment device of claim 20, wherein the portion of the sleeve is constructed and arranged to expand outward in a radial direction to engage the first component.

Claims 22 - 23 (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended) The attachment device of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 17, wherein the sleeve further includes a third interior section having a third interior diameter greater than the interior diameter of the second interior section, the third interior section being adjacent to the second interior section.

25. (Previously presented) The attachment device of claim 24, wherein the third interior section extends into at least a portion of a first component.
26. (Previously presented) The attachment device of claim 25, wherein the third interior section is constructed and arranged to expand radially outward to securely attach the sleeve to the first component.
27. (Previously presented) The attachment device of claim 17, wherein the bolt includes a stop shoulder and wherein the inner shoulder cooperates with the stop shoulder to apply approximately equal and oppositely directed forces on the elastic member to retain the bolt at the predetermined position.
28. (Previously presented) The attachment device of claim 27, wherein the rear deep section is formed adjacent to the stop shoulder and a conically expanding section that tapers outwardly from the rear deep section to substantially match an outer diameter of an intermediate section of the bolt.

29. (Original) The attachment device of claim 17, wherein the bolt further includes an engagement head formed on an end thereof.
30. (Original) The attachment device of claim 17, wherein the bolt further includes an engagement member formed at an end thereof that releasably engages a first component coupled to a second component by the bolt.
31. (Original) The attachment device of claim 30, wherein the engagement member includes a threaded portion.
32. (Original) The attachment device of claim 17, wherein the elastic member includes any one of the members selected from the group consisting of: a spring lock washer, elastic polymer ring, spring steel split ring and a helical spring.
33. (Original) The attachment device of claim 17, wherein the sleeve is a deep drawn part.
34. (Original) The attachment device of claim 17, wherein the sleeve, the bolt, and the elastic member are made of steel.

35. (Previously presented) An attachment device, comprising:

- an elongated bolt;

- means for accepting the elongated bolt;

- an elastic member disposed on the bolt;

- means for retaining the elastic member formed on the bolt;

- means for engaging the elastic member, wherein the elastic member radially compresses in response to the bolt being disposed in a first interior section of the means for accepting the bolt and wherein the elastic member radially decompresses and is engaged in response to the bolt being disposed in a second interior section of the means for accepting the bolt,

- wherein a rear end of the means for accepting the elongated bolt includes a lead-in cone and, at the rear end of the means for accepting the elongated bolt in the direction of introduction of the bolt, the means for accepting the elongated bolt includes a collar that projects radially outward, wherein an end section at a front end of the means for accepting the elongated bolt has a reduced wall thickness that is flanged outward, and wherein the recess of the bolt includes a rear deep section and a front flat section for the elastic member that co-acts with said lead-in cone during introduction of the bolt into the means for accepting the elongated bolt and co-acts with an inner shoulder of the means for accepting the elongated bolt during detachment, and

- wherein an inner diameter of the first interior section of the means for accepting the elongated bolt substantially coincides with an outer diameter of the bolt, and an inner diameter of the second interior section of the means for accepting the

elongated bolt being expanded relative to the inner diameter of the first interior section, wherein said means for engaging the elastic member is formed by a transition from the first interior section to the second interior section, wherein the bolt includes a first shank section and a second shank section that are separated by said recess, and wherein an axial length of said first shank section of the bolt corresponds to an axial length of the first interior section of the means for accepting the elongated bolt.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Original) The attachment device of claim 35, wherein the means for accepting the bolt further includes means for being securely engaged to a portion of a first component.

38. (Original) The attachment device of claim 37, wherein the bolt further includes means for releasably engaging a second component.

39. (Original) The attachment device of claim 35, wherein the means for accepting the bolt is a deep drawn part.